GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1066
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
BAGLIHAR PROJECT
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Business Standard' dated June 19, 2005 captioned "Baglihar Plant" to be ready June, 2006;

(b) if so, whether objections raised by Pakistan have been sorted out bilaterally;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry has also examined all aspects of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) As per available information, the Baglihar Plant may not be ready by June, 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Technical discussions during the Secretary Level Meeting between India and Pakistan held in January 2005 indicated a scope for convergence on some issues. Indian side suggested that the technical discussions be continued for one more week as a recess in the Secretary Level Meeting, so that the Experts of the two sides could come out with amicable solutions on some points, if not all. Pakistan side was agreeable to the suggestion only if the works of the project were suspended. There is no provision in the Treaty for such suspension which was therefore not acceptable to India. Subsequent to this, Pakistan approached the World Bank for the appointment of a Neutral Expert to make a determination as the points of difference between Pakistan & India.

(d) & (e) Examination of all aspects of the project related to Pakistan's objections has confirmed that there is no quantitative technical basis for the objections and the design of the Plant is in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty. As the matter since stands referred to a Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank on Pakistan's request, necessary follow up action in the process before the Neutral Expert is being taken by India.